HOKKAIDO

Asahiyama Zoo The zoo, located at the country's

Hill of Biei

or bicycle from JR Biei Station

http://www.biei-hokkaido.jp/en/

Hakodate Night View



Daisetsuzan National Park Japan's largest national park (on land) is located in central Hokkaido. The park covers approximately 230,000 hectares. It is called "the roof of Hokkaido" as it consists of approximately 50 kilometers of mountains over 2,000 meters in altitude, of which the highest is Mt. Asahi-dake. This secluded area which is covered in snow for eight months of the year, provides a home for animals such as the pika, a so-called "ice age survivor.'

<Access> Bus from JR Asahikawa Station http://www.welcome-higashikawa.jp/global/english/

Shiretoko Peninsula World Heritage

Shiretoko was registered as a World Natural Heritage Site in 2005. It is the third such area to be registered in Japan. The Shiretoko Peninsula, known as "the last hidden reservation," is an area of various primeval ecological systems including a coastline of precipitous cliffs over 100 kilometers long, akes, forests and mountains. <Access> Bus from JR Shiretoko-Shari Station to Utoro

MAP 02

MAP 03

Sapporo Clock Tower

http://www.shiretoko.asia/world/index.html



Property of Japan, continuously counting me, and is the symbol of Sapporo. The official name is the "former theatrical hall of the Sapporo Agricultural School." It was riginally built in 1878 thanks to the advice of Iliam Smith Clark, who was invited from the S to teach Western science and technology. <Access> 10-minute walk from JR Sapporo Station http://sapporoshi-tokeidai.jp/english/

designated National Important Cultural

a superb panoramic view throughout the seasons. The night view, 334 meters up the mountain, provides fantastic and beautiful scenery with the curve of the city lights and the bay silhouetted with layers of mountain ranges. <Access> 10-minute walk from Hakodate City Tram [Jujigai Station] (a 3-minute ropeway ride to the summit) http://www.hakodate.travel/en/

MIYAGI 7 Finance Minister and Central Bank Goveners' Meeting, Ser

MAP 2

MAP 25

Matsushima

Matsushima is known for its superb views, which fascinated Date Masamune, a Sengoku warlord and Matsuo Basho, the haiku master. One of the country's most beautiful bays is speckled with 260 islands of various sizes, provides scenery on a large-scale from season to season. Today, tourists from around the world are still fascinated by the views from the Shidaikan, a panoramic observation point, and/or touring around Matsushima Bay in a boat.

<Access> From Sendai Airport Transit [Sendai Station] to JR Matsushima Kaigan Station, 3-minute walk from Matsushima Kaigan Station http://www.matsushima-kanko.com/en/

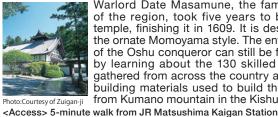
Naruko Vallev

http://en.naruko.gr.jp/

MAP 24 This valley, about 2.6 kilometers long, is ocated in the area of "Nakayama-daira Onsen" in the Naruko Onsenkyo town. It is known for its famous autumn foliage. The 100-meter-deep valley, carved naturally by the Otani River, is covered with breath aking autumn leaves from mid-October to the beginning of November. <Access> Bus ride from JR Naruko Onsen Station

Zuigan-ji Temple

http://www.matsushima-kanko.com/en



Warlord Date Masamune, the famed ruler of the region, took five years to build the temple, finishing it in 1609. It is designed in he ornate Momoyama style. The enthusiasm f the Oshu conqueror can still be felt today v learning about the 130 skilled artisans athered from across the country as well as uilding materials used to build the temple rom Kumano mountain in the Kishu area.



The historical hot spring of Akiu Onsen, with its magnificent nature and hot spring water, has been popular as a resort throughout the ages. It is known as one of "Japan's three major hot springs" along with Shinano and Inukai not springs. It is also famous for being loved by warlord Date Masamune. <Access> 30-minute taxi ride from Sendai Airport Transit [Sendai Station].

The number one Tanabata Festival in the country, famous for its traditional

Japanese star festival elegance and for its richness in decoration,

both of which have been passed on

since the founding period during the

time of warlord Date Masamune.

The festival is held from August 6th

hrough 8th every year.

<Access> Walking distance from Sendai Airport Transit [Sendai Station]



Warlord Date Masamune built the castle in 1603. It had been the residence of the Date family for many years. It was burned down by air-raids in 1945. The ruin has become Aoba-yama park, with Gokoku Shrine (a shrine honoring the war dead) at the main enclosure, a monument commemorating a song – Kojo no Tsuki ("The Moon over the Ruined Castle") – by Doi Bansui and a statue of Date Masamune on horseback. <Access> 20-minute bus ride from Sendai Airport Transit [Sendai Station] http://www.sendaimiyagidc.jp/en/



Lake Towada

MAP 04

MAP 05

MAP 06

MAP 26

MAP 27

northernmost point, opened in 1967. A very

popular tourist spot that enables visitors

observe the natural habitat of animals

ncluding "Orangutan House" – orangutan's

aerial playground - and "Penguin house"

an area to observe penguins with a 360-

The hill of Biei is a patchwork field of

potatoes and flowers on a gently sloping

nilly area. A JR railroad divides the area

nto the "patchwork road" to the north

and the "panoramic road" to the south.

The picturesque scenery attracts many

tourists from around the world.

degree-view in an underwater tunnel.

Access> 40-minute bus ride from JR Asahikawa Statior

http://www5.city. asahikawa. hokkaido.jp/asahiyamazoo

<Access> About a 20-minute to 2-hour ride on a rental motor cycle

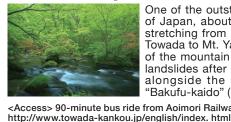
Mt. Hakodate has earned a three-star rating in the "Michelin

Green Guide Japan." It is a very popular sightseeing spot with

Sendai Tanabata Festival

A caldera lake, originally created by large volcanic eruptions of the Towada volcano about 40,000 years ago. Natural forests spread around the lake with beech and Japanese Judas trees, as well as numerous wild animals. North Japanese hill cherry (Prunus sargentii) and Japanese magnolias bloom in spring tender greens spread in the summer; foliage fills the area in autumn; and a fantastic blanket of snow covers the area in winter. It is as if nature is continually changing its fashion sense. <Access> 90-minute bus ride from Aoimori Railway [Hachinohe Station]

Oirase Valley



One of the outstanding scenic areas of Japan, about 14 kilometers long, stretching from Nenokuchi near lake owada to Mt. Yakeyama. The beauty of the mountain strata was made by landslides after eruptions. Waterfalls alongside the streams are called "Bakufu-kaido" ("the path of falls"). <Access> 90-minute bus ride from Aoimori Railway [Hachinohe Station]

MAP 08

Shirakami Mountains World Heritage

http://www.towada-kankou.jp/english/index.html

MAP 09 "Shirakami Mountains" is the general name of a vast mountain range, covering an area from the southeast part of Aomori Prefecture to the northeast part of Akita Prefecture. The majority of the area, which totals 16,971 hectares, consists of primeval beech forest and has been registered as a World Heritage Site since 1993. Three quarters of the site is located in Aomori Prefecture.

Access> 55-minute bus ride from Kounan Tetsudou [Hirosaki Station] https://www.pref.aomori.lg.jp/nature/nature/shirakami- english.html



Risshaku-ji Temple

The official name of the temple is Hoshuyama Risshaku-ji. It was founded by Jikaku Daishi, a famous priest of the Tendai Buddhist Sect. in 860. The main hall, Kompon-chudo, a designated National Important Cultural Property, was re-constructed by the first Yamagata Castle lord, Kaneyori Shiba, in 1356. It is said that the hall is the oldest beech wood construction in Japan with a hip-and-gable roof structure. The Tendai Buddhist Sect studio style has been well maintained. <Access> Walking distance from JR Yamadera Station

Kamo Aquarium

MAP 30 A world-class aquarium th a fascinating ollection of 50 different olored kinds of jellyfish. A fun viewing spot that includes a sea lion show and feeding black-tailed

MAP 29

MAP 31

<Access> 30-minute walk from JR Tsuruoka Station http://kamo-kurage.jp/english/

Ginzan Hot Spring s hot spring is internationally known for being the location of the popular TV drama "Oshin."

The town is permeated with the nostalgic and romantic atmosphere of the Taisho era. The hot spring town has rows of traditional Japanese inns as well as Western-style multi-floored wooden buildings constructed from the end of the Taisho period to the beginning of Showa period, giving the area a unique landscape. <Access> 40-minute bus ride from JB Obanazawa Station http://www.city.obanazawa.yamagata.jp/51.html





MAP 45 **Tateyama** Kurobe **Alpine Route**

In April, when the route opens up after winter, visitors are overwhelmed by the amazing view of up to 20-meter-high snow walls of the famous 'Snow Valley". A walk through the snow corridor is possible from April to June. The Alpine Route is open from April 16th through November 30th

<Access> 1 hour by Toyama Chihou Tetsudou from Toyama Station to Tateyama Station

Kurobe Dam & Kurobe Gorge Railway MAP 46



<Access> 25-minute by Toyama Chihou Tetsudou from JR Kurobe-Unazuki Onsen Station to Unazuki Onsen Station

Toyama Bay Mirage



The Bay has been a well-known spot for its mirages from before the Edo period. From late March to early June, elongated and upsidedown views of natural scenery can be viewed from 11 am to 4 pm on a clear day when there is a light wind and the temperature is rising.

http://foreign.info-toyama.com/en





Tsurugi-dake, a part of the Northern Alpine Tateyama mountain range standing over 3,000 meters. A recent study revealed them to be first "glaciers" in the country, something that was previously thought not to



Owara-Kaze-no-Bon ("Bon Dance of the Wind") Festival The festival has been held from September 1 to 3 every year in

Yatsuo district, located in the southeastern part of Toyama city. Dancers produce a silent sophisticated dance to a sorrowful nelody. The dance has been passed down for over 300 years. Access> 35-minute bus ride from Toyama Chihou Tetsudou [Toyama Station] ttp://foreign. info-toyama.com/en/



Historic Villages of Gokayama MAP 50

Gokayama area (Ainokura and Suganuma villages) was registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1995. It is located at the edge of the southeastern part of Toyama Prefecture along the Shogawa River. It is a region with abundant nature. Gasshozukuri (literally, "prayer-hands construction") is the name for the houses made of steep gabled thatched roofs, a characteristic of areas known for heavy snowfall. The scene of Gassho-zukuri nouses in a quiet mountain village can be appreciated. <Access> 1 hour by World Heritage Bus from JR Takaoka Station

> An alpine touring spot located at an altitude of 2,450 meters on a lava plateau formed by the eruptions of Mt. Tateyama. /iews of magnificent mountains over 3,000 meters in height can be seen. The view ncludes the famous Mt. Tsurugi-dake and he three mountains of Tateyama.

MAP 51

Tateyama Station], get off at Murodo Station, reached by bus



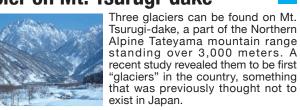
http://foreign.info-toyama.com/en/



One of Japan's Three Great Buddha Statues, made with the dedicated skill of local copper manufacturers. Started in 1907, it took 26 years to complete. The statue is also called The most handsome man in the country" hanks to the excellent workmanship. It is Takaoka's most symbolic statue. <Access> 10-minute walk from Manyosen [Takaoka Station]

TOYAMA

<Access> 25-minute walk from Toyama Chihou Tetsudou [Uozu Station]



<Access> Get off the trolley bus at Ogizawa Station http://visit-toyama.com/en/entry.php?nid=12001



MAP 49

MAP 48

MAP 47

http://www.gokayama.jp/english/index. html Murodo-daira

Access> Cable car ride from Toyama Chihou Tetsudou http://foreign.info-tovama.com/en/

AOMORI

Hotoke-ga-ura

A number of peculiar-looking white-green colored tuff rocks stretching along the coast have been carved by brutal winter winds and raging waves in the Tsugaru Channel. The calm sea in the summer conjures up the image of the "Pure Land of Perfect Bliss," worthy of the name 'Hotoke-ga-ura" (the Inlet of Buddha).

<Access> 1 hour and 20 minutes by car from JR Shimokita Station

Kabushima Island



http://www.en-aomori.com

http://www.en-aomori.com/

A breeding ground of the Black-tailed Gull, which is registered as a natural monument. Millions of gulls fly from the south to lay their eggs in the middle of March every year. The baby gulls hatch in April just as yellow turnip flowers are blooming. The gulls migrate south at the end of the summer <Access> 5-minute walk from JR Same Station

MAP 10

MAP 11



Ozegahara (Oze Marshland)

http://www.oze-info.jp.e.ts.hp.transer.com

Gunma Prefecture.

Sanjo Falls

A CONTRACTOR

Oze is one of Japan's best high moors. In 2007, it was

designated as the country's 29th national park, and its beautiful

nature can be enjoyed throughout the year. In addition, Oze

crosses into 4 prefectures: Fukushima, Gunma, Niigata and

Tochigi and has 6 entrances. Three entrances, Numavama-

toge, Miike and Ozawadaira, are located in Hinoematamura,

Fukushima Prefecture, while the Hatomachi-toge Pass, Oshimizu

and Fujimishita entrances are located in Katashina-mura,

<Access> 70-minute bus ride from Aizu Railway [Aizu-Kogen-Ozeguchi Station]

[Tsugaru-Goshogawara Station]

MAP 12 Tachi-Neputa

The traditional festival of Goshoqawara Citv s about 100 years old and originated around the middle of the Meii period to the beginning of the Taisho period loats over 22 meters n height are paraded hrough the town oulled by hundreds of young people. Every year during the festival period from the 4th to 8th of August, Tachi-Neputa, about the size of 7-story-buildings, are pulled, enchanting the crowds of spectators. <Access> Walking distance from Tsugaru Railway

FUKUSHIMA

MAP 32

MAP 33

MAP 53

MAP 55

blossom at Hirosaki

<Access> 25-minute walk from Kounan Tetsudou [Hirosaki Station]

http://www.en-aomori.com



in the wind, as either "Hell" or "Pure Land." The area attracts a lot of worshippers. <Access> 40-minute car ride from JB Shimo-Kita Station http://www.en-aomori.com

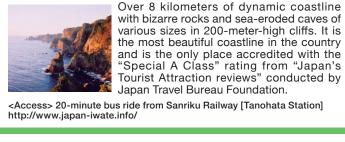
Sannai-Maruyama Site



o freely observe the area. <Access> 30-minute bus ride from Aoimori Railway [Aomori Station] http://sannaimaruyama.pref.aomori.jp/about/

IWATE

Kitayamazaki Cliffs



Chuson-ji Temple World Heritage The main temple of the Tendai Buddhist denomination

MAP 13

Cherry

Castle

A famous castle over

400 years old, with three

turrets and five gates, which are designated National Important

Cultural Properties.

At the end of April,

about 2,600 cherry

trees bloom, including

Yoshino cherry trees

and double-flowered

cherry trees, and cover

MAP 14

MAP 15

MAP 36

MAP 56

MAP 58

he castle park.

n the Tohoku region, founded by Jikaku Daishi. In the beginning of the 12th century, Fujiwara-no Kiyohira, the founder of the Northern Fujiwara samurai dynasty, built many temples such as Konjiki-do (or "Golden Hall") and Nikai-odo (or "Great Two-Storey Hall"). Numerous national treasures and important cultural properties such as Konjiki-do convey the beauty of Heian art. <Access> 25-minute walk from JR Hiraizumi Station http://www.chusonji.or.jp/en/





http://www.japan-iwate.info/

The scenery of Goishi Kaigan (Goishi Coast) is designated as one of the 100 best sites to enjoy coastline scenery with white sand and green pine trees. The intriguing rock with three holes in the base made by sea-erosion, highlights the amazing ability of nature.

MAP 16

MAP 17

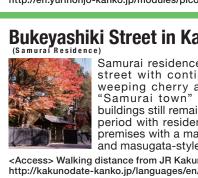
Ryusendo Cavern



http://www.japan-iwate.info/

Kenroku-en Garden

MAP 19 Known as one of three major limestone caverns in Japan, it is said that the cave has an overall length of up to 5,000 meters The pure water bubbling up through the bottom has created many underground lakes. The third lake is 98 meters deep with worldlass transparency <Access> 2 hours and 10 minutes by bus from JR Morioka Station

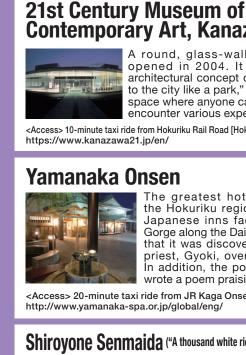




ISHIKAWA

MAP 38

MAP 40





http://senmaida.wajima-kankou.jp/en/ Myoryuji Temple (Ninja Temple)

http://www.myour yuji.or.jp/en.html

beautiful waterfalls. Please be aware that it is closed to traffic from November to May. Access> 2-hour bus ride from Aizu Railway [Aizu-Kogen-Ozeguchi Station], then 2.5- hour from the bus stop Miharu Takizakura MAP 34 Nationally Designated Natural Monument,

A large waterfall about 100 meters high

and 30 meters wide. The rich water

resources of Ozegahara make it the largest

waterfall by volume of water in Japan.

t is also one of the country's 100 most

<Access> 15-minute taxi ride from JR Miharu Station

the Prunus pendula "Pendula Rosea" cherry tree, whose estimated age is over 1,000 years old, is one of Japan's three major cherry trees. It is said that "Miharu Takizakura" is so named because when it is in full bloom, its small pale pink flowers hang downwards resembling a waterfall.

NAGANO



Mt. Hotaka-dake

The Hotaka Mountain Range, with an altitude of over 3,000 meters, is one of the nation's main mountain climbing areas. The main mountain, Mt. Hotaka-dake is comprised of Oku-Hotakadake, the third highest peak in Japan, Kita-Hotaka-dake, Mae-Hotaka-dake and Nishi-Hotaka-dake. The jagged mountain ridges were formed by erosion during the ice age. Crowds of climbers visit these mountains in the summer. <Access> Get off at Alpico Kotsu [Shin-Shimashima Station], Bus

Senjojiki Cirque

http://welcome.city.matsumoto.nagano.jp/

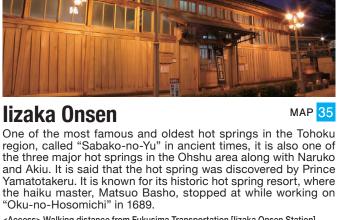
MAP 54 ojiki Cirque ("senjojiki" means the width of a space where 1,000 tatami mats can be placed) is located 2.612 meters up Mt. Kiso Komaga-take (2,956 meters). The geographical eatures of this bowl-shaped area were formed by erosion during the ice age. It is a treasure rove of alpine plants. The walk around the cirque takes about 40 minutes. <Access> 50-minute bus ride from JR Komagane Station. Walking distance from Senjojiki Station by ropeway http://www.kankou-komagane.com/alps/

Takato Castle Site Park It was said that at the horse-riding ground

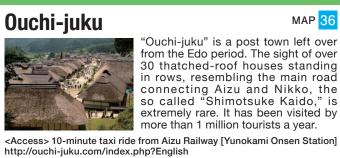
http://inashi-kankoukyoukai.jp/cms2/welcome-to-ina-city



of the Takato Domain the cherry blossom fell so heavily it covered the horses. Then clansmen moved the cherry trees to park's current location. For many years, the park has been called "The country's number one cherry blossom park" as it has over 1,500 trees <Access> 15-minute walk from JR Takato Station



<Access> Walking distance from Fukusima Transportation [lizaka Onsen Station] http://www.tif.ne.jp/lang/en/



Soma-Nomaoi (wild horse chasing festival) MAP 37

Zenko-ji Temple

http://www.zenkoji.jp/ENGLISH/about/

Suwa Taisha Shrine

ttp://shimosuwaonsen.jp/tourism/

<Access> 25-minute walk from JB Shimo-Suwa Station

Jiqokudani Monkey Park

<Access> Nagano Electric Railway [Yudanaka Station],

bus ride to Kanbayashi Onsen, 30-minute walk from the bus stop

http://www.jigokudani-yaenkoen.co.jp/english/html/top_e.htm

A festival over 1,000 years old in which about 500 riders resemble scenes you might find on scrolls from the Sengoku period (warring states period). The festival originated from the founder of the Soma clan. Tairano Masakado, drilling captured wild horses that were then set free and dedicating them to the gods

<Access> 17-minute walk from JR Soma Station

Zenko-ji, a designated National Treasure,

was constructed about 1,400 years

ago. The main hall was reconstructed

in the middle of the Edo period (1707),

with a maiestic wooden design. Since

the Heian period, the temple has been

known for offering salvation to people

without discrimination

for bathing in a natural hot spring.

<Access> 10-minute walk from Nagano Electric Railway [Zenko-ji-shita Station]

Bandai Bridge and "Yasuragi Tei" MAP 61

Furumachi Geigi: the Geisha of Niigata MAP 62



The Furumachi district of Niigata is regarded as one of the three most famous geisha districts in Japan, along with Gion in Kyoto and Shinbashi in Tokyo. Geigi, the geisha of Niigata, perform songs and dances, embracing visitors with the warm hospitality intrinsic to the culture of Niigata as a port town. <Access> 10 to 15 minutes by car from JR Niigata Station to Central Furumachi

Matsumoto Castle



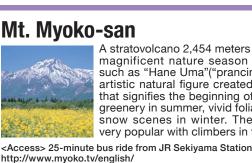
MAP 59 A National treasure, Matsumoto castle with its 5-level, 6-story tower, is the oldest castle in Japan. It has survived over 400 years of wind and snow, and its original tower from the Warring States period is still intact. It is one of four castles designated as National Treasures; the other three are Himeji, Hikone and Inuyama castles.

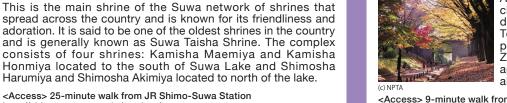
MAP 60



<Access> 15-minute walk from Alpico Kotsu [Matsumoto Station] http://welcome.city.matsumoto.nagano.jp/ residential castle ruin of the Sanada clan, who are known nationally for twice













red in the spring.

Kanazawa Higashi Chaya District MAP 39 A historic townscape with houses with beautiful latticed bay-windows. The area called "Kimusuko" stretches along the banks of the Asano River, which runs along the foot of the Utatsuyama mountains, projecting traces of the past. The district was designated as a National Important Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings in 2001. <Access> Bus ride from Hokuriku Rail Road [Hokutetsu Kanazawa Station]

Kenroku-en was created as the garden of the Maeda family

of the prosperous Kaga domain, and is one of the Three

Great Gardens of Japan, along with "Kairakuen" in Mito and

"Korakuen" in Okayama. The garden is famous for the exquisite

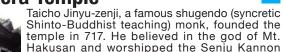
beauty of seasonal transitions, and particularly for exquisite

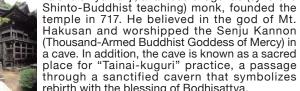
winter scenery, as well as plum trees blossoming in white and

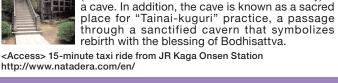
<Access> Bus ride from Hokuriku Rail Road [Hokutetsu Kanazawa Station]

http://www.pref.ishikawa.jp/siro-niwa/english/top. html







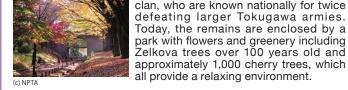


NIIGATA









approximately 1,000 cherry trees, which Il provide a relaxing environment. <Access> 9-minute walk from Uedadentetsu [Ueda Station]

nttp://www.go-nagano.net/

MAP <mark>57</mark> Since its opening in 1964, Jigokudani Monkey Park, located in Jigokudani Hot Spring in the northern part of Nagano Prefecture, has been popular as a place where visitors can observe the intriguing life of wild Japanese Macaques n their natural habitat. The monkeys are famous around the world as "Snow Monkeys"

The tarai bune, or tub-shaped boat, was devised for gathering wakame seaweed and other sea products in numerous narrow coves along the deeply indented Ogi-kaigan coastline. The current shape of the boat is believed to have evolved as a result of repeated mprovements from a laundry tub. Visitors car experience a ride in the tarai bune at Ogi Port and Yajima-Kyojima on Sado Island. <Access> 5-minute walk from Ogi Port http://www.niigata-kankou.or.jp/sys/data?page-id=8871

AKITA



This fireworks competition has been held since 1910. Pyrotechnicians throughout the country compete in the contest that has three categories: "Daytime Fireworks," "Shell size: 10" and "Creative Fireworks." The contest is also known as the biggest and most prestigious fireworks competition in the country, attracting huge crowds from all over the nation every year. The next competition will be held on August 27th,

<Access> Walking distance from JR Omagari Station

Mt. Chokai-san

MAP 21

peak with a high point of 2,236 meters, ocated on the border between Akita and Yamagata prefectures. The mountain has been worshipped in Shinto prayers since ancient imes because of its imposing figure and repeated tumultuous eruptions that caused concern to the local population. The mountain also known as "Dewa-Fuji," is highly revered. <Access> 30-minute Taxi ride from Yuri Kogen Railway [Yashima Station] http://en.yurihonjo-kanko.jp/modules/pico/

Bukeyashiki Street in Kakunodate MAP 22

Samurai residences run alongside a wide street with continuous walls and large weeping cherry and fir trees. The solid "Samurai town" characteristics of the buildings still remain from the end of the Edo period with residential allotment areas and premises with a main house/gate/warehouse and masugata-style (box-type) entrance. <Access> Walking distance from JR Kakunodate Station

Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

round, glass-walled museum that pened in 2004. It is built with the architectural concept of "a museum open to the city like a park," aiming to provide a space where anyone can visit anytime and encounter various experiences. <Access> 10-minute taxi ride from Hokuriku Rail Road [Hokutetsu Kanazawa Station]

MAP 42

MAP 41

he greatest hot spring resort in the Hokuriku region with traditional Japanese inns facing the Kakusen Gorge along the Daishoji River. It is said that it was discovered by a Buddhist priest, Gyoki, over 1,300 years ago. In addition, the poet, Matsuo Basho, wrote a poem praising the area. <Access> 20-minute taxi ride from JR Kaga Onsen Station

Shirovone Senmaida ("A thousand white rice paddles") MAP 43 Shiroyone Senmaida represents the terraced rice and Satoumi" ("Abundant mountains and sea of the Noto Peninsula") registered as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS). It faces the Sea of Japan: the picturesque scenery of lavers o small rice fields reaching the shore is also a Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property as well as being one of Japan's 100 best terraced rice fields. <Access> Bus ride from Noto Railway [Anamizu Station]

The temple was constructed on the orders of the third lord of the Kaga Domain, Maeda oshitsune, in 1643. It is popularly known as the "Ninja Temple" as it has a complex architectural structure of 23 rooms, 29 staircases in a I-story, 7-level building with hidden chambers, tunnels and staircases, various traps, escape pits, and other contrivances to fool the enemy. <Access> Bus ride from Hokuriku Rail Road [Hokutetsu Kanazawa Station]

MAP 63

MAP 44

The cherry blossom festival at Takada Park is known as one of the three major nocturnal cherry blossom viewing events in Japan. Lighted up Sanju Yagura, the three-tiered turret of Takada Castle, and some 4,000 blooming cherry trees lluminated by about 3,000 traditional Japanese bonbori lights and enchantingly reflected in the water of the moat continue to fascinate visitors from all over Japan and abroad. Access> 15-minute walk from Echigo Tokimeki Railway/Myoko-

Tarai bune: the Tub-Shaped Boat MAP 64

MAP 65 Mt. Yahiko-san is the object of worship at Yahiko Shrine, and has been known by the honorific name "Oyahiko-sama" since ancient times. It is one of the nost revered spots in the country. t stands 634 meters tall. Yahiko Shrine is located on top of the mountain

MAP 66

A stratovolcano 2,454 meters in height with magnificent nature season after season such as "Hane Uma" ("prancing horse"), an artistic natural figure created by the snow that signifies the beginning of spring. fresh greenery in summer, vivid foliage in fall and snow scenes in winter. The mountain is very popular with climbers in the summer.